



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

*State Department of Education*



**TO:** Connecticut students, parents, education stakeholders, and community organizations

**FROM:** Kelly Donnelly, Director of Communications and Community Partnerships

**DATE:** March 13, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Extension for providing stakeholder feedback on ESEA flexibility renewal

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) granted the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) a three-year flexibility request from certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. The waiver provided Connecticut educators with the ability to advance state and local efforts for school improvement and utilize federal resources to support learning for all students. The USED has invited the state to renew our request through an expedited process that would allow us to sustain our progress towards our goals. Connecticut has been afforded this opportunity because implementation of the approved plan remains on track.

States are expected to consult stakeholders on their ESEA flexibility renewal request. On March 4, 2015, the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) [announced](#) that it was seeking public comment on the renewal request. **The Department is extending the deadline to submit stakeholder feedback by one week, to Friday, March 27, 2015.**

The flexibility renewal submission continues many of the major initiatives outlined in Connecticut's approved plan and seeks to strengthen and evolve others. Many of the proposed modifications have been presented and discussed at various stages with different educational stakeholders. The Department invites you to provide feedback on the proposed renewal request which addresses the USED's three prescribed principles. Please find documents for your review posted on the CSDE website at <http://www.ct.gov/sde/commentsESEA>, which includes:

- An overview of Connecticut's progress made to date in the implementation of the existing, approved ESEA flexibility request;
- A listing of the USED's required components that must be addressed in the ESEA flexibility waiver renewal application; and
- An overview of the key initiatives to be continued or modified that address the required components in the renewal application.

**Please submit all comments to: [ESEAFlexRequest.SDE@ct.gov](mailto:ESEAFlexRequest.SDE@ct.gov), by March 27, 2015.** This will allow time to synthesize and consider the comments prior to the renewal submission.

DW:gp

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